



D4 BSAI Halibut ABM

January 2020 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram

Action Required: Discuss stakeholder ideas; refine alternatives as needed

BACKGROUND

The Council continues to consider proposed management measures to index Pacific halibut PSC limits in the BSAI groundfish fisheries to halibut abundance. The Council took initial review of a preliminary draft EIS of the BSAI Halibut ABM analysis in October 2019 and intends to review a revised DEIS in June 2020.

In December 2019, upon review of a workplan for the revised analysis, the Council requested an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on additional management alternatives that serve to streamline the action and meet the Council's objectives to establish abundance-based PSC limits that minimize halibut PSC to the extent practicable, and aid the directed halibut fisheries at low levels of abundance. The Council may consider revisions to the suite of alternatives at this meeting, understanding that requesting additional analysis to be included in the June 2020 draft will be contingent upon the scope of the requested changes. An interactive spreadsheet of the current stakeholder scenarios is posted as a tool for understanding the behavior of these alternatives, and to help the public in developing any modifications for February. Input from stakeholders on modifications to the alternative set can be submitted through the public comment portal for the Council's January/February agenda. The executive summary of the October analysis is posted.